

JOE MOTT'S AWARD WINNING HOT

Are you serious, Geri?

She wants to be like Dido

GERI Halliwell is ditching her glamourpuss image to become a serious singer-song-writer.

Or, I could have written, Geri Halliwell is pressing the self-destruct button.

News reaches me that the former **Spice Girl**, 32, has had enough of camp videos and flesh-baring antics, and wants to remodel herself in the sensitive **Dido**-esque-type mold.

I'm told: "Geri's had enough of doing the same old videos and shows where she's flaunting her curves and acting like a teenager."

Overhaul

"She's told her people she wants her career to take a new, more adult direction."

"As far as she's concerned, that means a total image overhaul to kick it off. She's using Dido as an example of what she's going for."

"She's 32 and wants to appeal to a different audience."

So gone will be the knickers

EXCLUSIVE

and negligé, sexy policewoman outfit and visible thong that featured in the *Ride It* video.

The girl clearly needs someone to whisper in her shell-like that this is career suicide.

With a fresh album ready to drop in the new year, plus a tour, she needs all the support she can get, and her wish to be taken seriously is badly-timed.

At No 4 with *Ride It* after a blistering press campaign is pret-

ty poor – she even rode a horse through London to get attention.

What success she's had has come from a loyal army of teeny fans and support from the pink pound.

Geri on stage with a guitar singing songs for women to listen to in the bath isn't going to sell concert tickets.

If her label and management have any sense they'll explain why the skimpies must stay.

Geri, know your market.

EMMA Bunton is releasing her second solo album in America.

The ex-Baby Spice plans to put out *Free Me* on January 25 after the title track moved into the Top 5 of the dance charts.

Em, 28, said: "When I first heard that the dance remixes were on their way up the charts in America I was ecstatic. I couldn't wait to get there."

"They (US Spice Girls fans) were always there for us, which is why I always feel so at home there."

KASABIAN

Brixton Academy, south London

CAUGHT LIVE

AS birthdays go, this was a truly memorable one.

Kasabian's gangly guitarist and musical dynamo **Serge** celebrated his 25th year on the planet in front of 3,000 friendly, sweaty and demented faces.

New single *Cut Off* detonated the mosh pit early on with the

Leicester lads' swirling electro rock psychedelia blanketing Brixton's finest venue in a barrage of blinding lasers, head-spinning keyboard loops, pounding drums and crunching guitars.

Processed Beats, **Reason** is **Treason** and **L.S.F** all came and went in a blur of baggy dance-rock brilliance.

2005 is there for Kasabian's taking. Don't bet against them seeing out the end of next year at Wembley.

CARL STROUD

Dirty drug death

RAPPER OR' Dirty Bastard died from a drugs overdose, it's been confirmed.

ODB collapsed and died in a New York recording studio on November 13.

The New York Medical Examiner's Office said ODB, real name **Russell Jones**, 36, had a mixture of cocaine and the painkilling drug Tramadol in his system.

A ruling has decreed ODB's death was an accident.

Sham rocker

PETE Doherty's slide into drugs hell goes on.

The former **Libertine** was dragged off stage by management after a disastrous gig, which saw his band walk off in disgust.

The unhinged **Babyshambles** frontman was playing at Blackpool's Empress Ballroom.

A source said: "Pete was looking really bad. A few songs in, the guitarist just got fed up and left."

"The rest of the band followed."

The frontman was reportedly hauled off stage in a headlock.

Get your act together mate.

So Moody

BEN Moody will start recording a solo album in January, ditching his soft goth rock past. The former **Evanescence** guitarist, 24, who has written for **Avril Lavigne**, 20, is planning a summer release.

KEISHA Buchanan has got involved with the Grime scene. The **Sugababe**, 20, features on Gully with London rapper **Crazy Titch** – something of a departure from her pop career. The girls are doing their own thing for a while as **Mutya Buena**, 19, takes a bit of time off to have a sprog.



COVER UP: Grinder Geri's no Dido, inset



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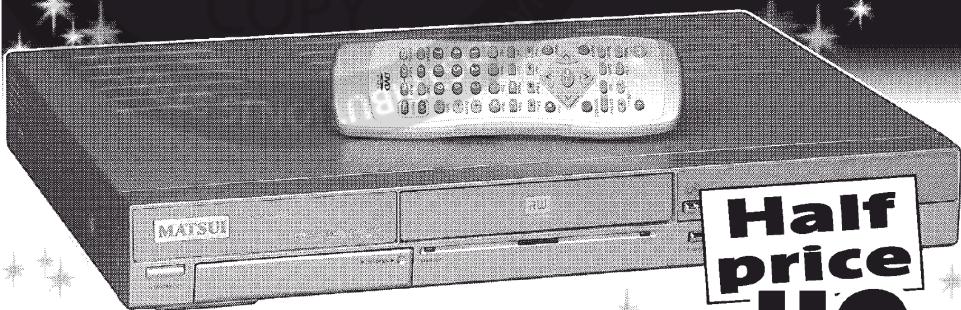
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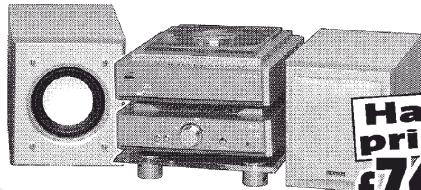
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LOSING RUN: Linda Barker and David Seaman in Currys telly ad

SEAMAN IS TV ADVERT CHAMPION

PONY-TAILED goalie David Seaman has netted a new award - for the worst celeb telly ad of the year.

Experts reckon the former England star's performing talent is even more wooden than his goalposts.

And his ad for electrical giant Currys alongside Linda Barker was the ultimate own goal, according to advertising industry magazine Campaign.

The mag said: "As if Linda Barker wasn't bad enough, they made one of the most excruciating celeb appearances even worse by the addition of His Woodenness David Seaman."

Ad appearances by David Beckham, ex-EastEnder Dean Gaffney and Tim Henman also featured on the list of cringe-making commercials.

Becks' macho appearance for razor firm Gillette was runner-up.

Campaign said: "You've

■ by SIMON WORTHINGTON

seen it a thousand times before. More fool Beckham for agreeing to put his face to it."

Third was Sex And The City star Kim Cattrall's plug for Tetley Tea.

"Her performance is pure Samantha but nothing to do with the product," said the experts. "The Tetley tea folk will be turning in their graves."

Beer

Other stars in the top 10 of trashy celeb ads were: 4 Dean Gaffney for Smirnoff Ice; 5 Michael Owen for Persil; 6 Sarah Jessica Parker for Gap; 7 Mel Sykes for Head & Shoulders; 8 Jeremy Clarkson for BT; 9 Tim Henman for Ariel; 10 Fay Ripley for National Lottery.

Engelbert Humperdinck's appearance alongside Peter Kay in ads for John Smith's beer was named best celeb ad, followed by Alan Whicker for Travelocity and Donald Sutherland for Barclays.



ICY: Dean Gaffney



BAD SPORTS:
David Beckham
and Tim Henman
in the ads that
upset the experts



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Pictures: EPA



HORROR: Police comfort surfers after Nick was torn apart

SURFER IS RIPPED TO PIECES BY 2 SHARKS

■ by ROGER MAYNARD

A TEENAGE surfer was ripped in half by two sharks in an attack straight out of Jaws.

A monster Great White struck as Nick Peterson's pals tried to haul him on to a boat.

A second shark then joined in, ripping him to pieces.

Yesterday's horrific attack off Adelaide was the second fatal incident of its kind in Australia with in a week.

The 18-year-old surfer, who was being pulled behind a boat about 250 yards off shore, was taken by the 13ft beast in full view of a crowded holiday beach.

Witness Anna Criscitelli, 31, said the pals raced back to the shore, shouting: "Help us...our mate's been taken by shark. Don't go out, don't go out - sharks, sharks!"

The ferocity of the attack stunned beachgoers and left the victim's friends in deep shock, police said last night.

Attack

Inspector David Lufty said the beaches would stay closed while the shark hunt continued.

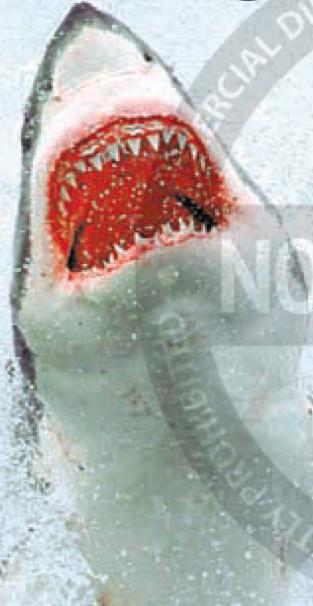
Frasier Bell, of the South Australia Sea Rescue Squadron, said the four men had been in the water for about 30 minutes when the attack happened.

He revealed: "It tore him apart...apparently it tore him in half and the other shark came in and took the rest."

He warned a savaging by two sharks was "unprecedented" and might result in further attacks.

There had been several sightings in recent days along the Adelaide coast but locals claimed little was done to warn swimmers.

Last weekend a 38-year-old man died when he was attacked by a shark on the Great Barrier Reef.



TRAGIC: Victim Nick Peterson

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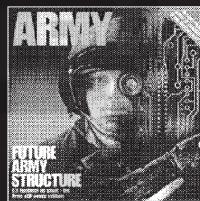
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Andy set for bullet

EASTENDERS gangster Andy Hunter is heading for disaster.

The hood, who orders and arranges the death of grass Paul Trueman over Christmas, will find he's just not tough enough for the big league.

It's looking like Andy (Michael Higgs, 42) will also leave Walford in a wooden box next year.

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DINGLE BELLE ROCKED

Debs is preggers after under-age sex romp



■ by JAMIE CHARLES

EMMERDALE'S teenage sex **Lolita** storyline will have a sensational new twist when 14-year-old **Debbie Dingle** discovers she is pregnant!

Debbie, who's been suffering from morning sickness symptoms after having under-age sex with 19-year-old Andy Sugden, will be left reeling from the positive result.

More bad news will be on the agenda for separated husband Andy, actor Kelvin Fletcher, 20.

Danger

He'll definitely be arrested for sex offences if his schoolgirl partner blows the whistle on his role in the affair.

Last night a senior Emmerdale source said: "It's a bombshell storyline which brings devastating news for Debbie and danger on two fronts from Andy. If Debbie's father Cain discovers her pregnancy, he will almost certainly decide to kill Andy.

"Even if Cain is thwarted, the authorities won't be. Andy will face prosecution and possible inclusion on the Sex Offenders Register."

In the storyline, Debbie, (Charley Webb, 15) who has been forbidden to see Andy by her family, will begin to suspect that she's expecting because of sickness bouts.

Shock

She'll buy a home testing kit and the result will be positive. In desperation she'll carry out two more, both with the same result.

Initially she'll go looking for her former love for some support. But she'll be in for a shock.

She'll find him in the Woolpack drinking with a new arrival, a posh tody blonde called Libby - actress Ty Glaser.

And she'll see that he is besotted with the gorgeous newcomer.

Jan makes Mike look a silly pucker

■ THIS is the moment that Corrie boozier Mike Baldwin gets caught under the mistletoe with Janice Battersby.

The knicker factory boss (Johnny Briggs, 69), pucks up to the Corrie gossip during their works Christmas party.

■ And Janice (Vicky Entwistle, 36) tells him: "I'm available for love."

"All I need are my roots doing once a month and three pints of lager every night."

■ Sadly for Janice, Mike regrets the kiss the next day and is horrified to learn that work pal Fiz Brown (Jenny McAlpine, 20) has a photo of the snog and shows it to all the locals in the Rovers Return.



FEAR: Debbie snuggles up to Andy after the dirty deed

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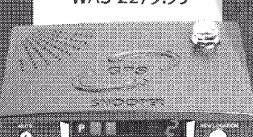
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Bootiful girl

SOCER star Michael Owen made sure his 19-month old daughter Gemma kept her tootsies warm in a pair of trendy Ugg boots as he strolled in Madrid with fiancée Louise Bonsall, 25. The striker, who was 25 this week, enjoyed a bootiful day out with his family.

Picture: SOLARPIX.COM

£100M FOR DUN ROMAN

Chelsea boss record price bid

■ by IAIN BURCHELL

MEGABUCKS Chelsea boss Roman Abramovich is to splash out £100million in a bid to turn a posh London mansion into Britain's most expensive home.

The Russian billionaire, 38, is believed to have upped his offer for the sprawling Old Rectory in Chelsea, west London, after already tabling a £90m bid.

If the 19th century home sells for £100m it will beat the previous record by £30m.

Luxury

The rectory had two huge new wings, 10 bedroom suites and a massive ballroom added as part of a multi-million pound facelift in 1994.

It has a total floor space of 30,000 square feet – the same as five large family houses. The luxury pad,



PLUSH: Old Rectory has a ballroom and 10 bedroom suites

which also has an indoor swimming pool and tennis courts, is owned by Norwegian shipping magnate John Fredriksen who bought it in May 2001 for about £40m.

Abramovich's offer was reported by a Norwegian TV station but a spokesman for the Russian – worth £7.5billion – denied his involvement.

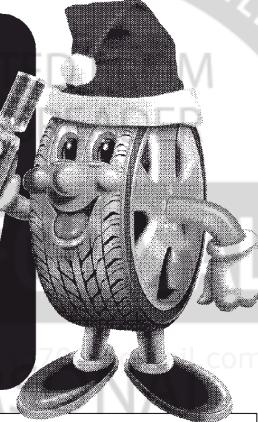
The record property price was set in April by Britain's fifth richest

man, steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal. He forked out £70m for a pad in Kensington Palace Gardens which has a gem-encrusted swimming pool.

London estate agent Andrew Langton said: "The Old Rectory is probably the best home in London.

"If it is for sale, it would become the most expensive property ever traded in Britain. But Fredriksen certainly doesn't need the money."

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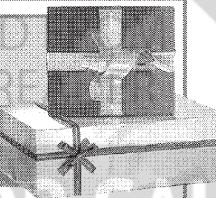
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REAL-LIFE VICKY IS BANNED FROM HER HOME TOWN



SPITTING IMAGE: Yob Charlotte Driver

Picture:
GRAHAM
WILDING

Last laugh for yob's victims

■ by PAUL VASS

A TEARAWAY teenager dubbed the real-life Vicky Pollard has been barred from her home town - and yeah, but no buts.

Wild child Chantelle Driver is a lookalike for the shell-suited slob played by Matt Lucas in telly hit show Little Britain.

But locals in Swanage, Dorset, found nothing to laugh at in the 17-year-old yob's behaviour which built up a four-year climate of fear in the seaside town.

A court heard she assaulted a policeman, waved a knife at a foreign student, threatened a nine-year-old girl and punched two boys in the face.

She has also repeatedly dropped her tracksuit bottoms to expose her bum to people on the seafront and in a cafe.

Now Driver has won even more notoriety after being given an Anti-Social Behaviour Order, banning her from the town centre.

And local shopkeepers were celebrating yesterday.

"The likeness to Vicky Pollard is uncanny," said one businessman, who has repeatedly thrown her out of his premises.

"Her appearance, her manner, her attitude and the way she talks is just like her."

Stocky

"She wears baggy clothes like shell suits and tracksuits and whenever you see her she is chewing gum with her mouth open."

"She has a chubby face and a stocky build, just like Vicky Pollard. And she's got bleached blonde hair tied into a scrunch on top of her head."

Driver even talks like Vicky Pollard, whose catchphrase is "yeah but, no but, yeah but, no but..."

The businessman said: "When you question her she won't give you a straight answer."

"She will come out with a torrent of excuses, then go round the houses before replying with a question of her own."

Since 2000 Driver, who lives with her mother, has been arrested 20 times and notched up six convictions covering 16 offences.

Her brother Marcus, 20, is in prison for robbery.

Police say the pair have been responsible for around 85% of the crime in Swanage.

Police Sergeant Jon Bleasdale said: "She has caused a great deal of distress. Some people will not go into the town centre for fear of bumping into her."



BRIT HIT: Matt as Vicky

‘£200k to porn wife if I died’

■ by BILL MARTIN
A DISABLED man whose porn star wife allegedly tried to help him commit suicide told a court how he was worth more dead than alive.

Spina bifida sufferer James Edwards, 38, from Bristol, tried to kill himself last December.

Noose

His estranged wife, Gemma Johnson, 21 - who has appeared in films such as Toys-R-Us - allegedly fed him the tablets and made a noose for him to hang himself because she wanted his money.

Johnson has pleaded not guilty to aiding and abetting Edwards' suicide attempt.

Edwards yesterday told Bristol Crown Court: "If I had died I would have left behind a profit of around £200,000."

The trial continues.

SPROUT OF LUCK

BRITAIN'S favourite variety of Brussels sprout, the Peer Gynt, is to die out after seed merchants decided to stop stocking it.

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your home into a wireless network. This means you can log on wherever you want at home, no matter where your phone line is.

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FOR your chance to win, call **0905 072 1637** or text WANADOO to **88833** and leave your name, address and daytime phone number. Phone calls are charged at 75p a minute. Average call length is 90 seconds. Texts cost £1 per message received plus your usual text tariff.

Alternatively, e-mail your details to competitions@dailystar.co.uk with "Wanadoo" in the subject heading. Entrants may be contact-

ed about offers and products from Express Newspapers. Please state on your e-mail if you do not wish to be contacted. Winners will be selected at random from all entries received by midnight tonight.

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4 HOL BRITS DIE IN TRUCK SMASH HELL

A BRITISH family of four have been killed on a Christmas break in South Africa.

Jeremy Monk and his wife Katherine, both 49, were in a car with their daughter Bryony, 21, and her boyfriend when they were hit by a lorry.

They were struck at a four-way crossing in Saldanha, 80 miles north of Cape Town. All four were pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

Yesterday tributes were paid to the family from the village of Mayfield, east Sussex, as devastated friends and relatives tried to come to terms with the tragedy.

Mr Monk had recently bought a house in South Africa and his family were looking forward to spending Christmas there.

His business partner and best man at his 1977 wedding to Katherine, Andy Gulliver,

by ROB KELLY

spoke of his sadness at the death of a kind, generous man".

He said: "I have known Jerry since we were students together.

"He was a kind and generous man. He had the rare quality of always being able to see the best in others.

Caring

"Kath was an extremely warm, caring and hospitable person and the whole family were extremely close.

"The news is devastating for all who knew them and our thoughts are particularly with Freya, their eldest daughter."

Freya, 24, on a separate holiday with her boyfriend at Kruger National Park, yesterday flew to Cape Town to identify the bodies.

Mr Monk had worked as a senior corrosion engineer at Cormon Limited, in Lancing, west Sussex, for 10 years before setting up his own business in 2003.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "A police investigation is under way.

"Consular staff are liaising with the police and every available assistance will be offered to the family members out there."

The identity of Bryony's boyfriend has not been revealed.

Bobby top tip for Wembley

FOOTBALL legend Bobby Moore is hot favourite to be immortalised by a statue at the new Wembley Stadium.

Ten celebrity fans will each champion a player such as the late former England captain and BBC viewers will pick a winner.

The statue will be erected over the players' entrance of the £715million 90,000-seater venue which will be finished for the 2006 FA Cup final.



FAVOURITE: Moore

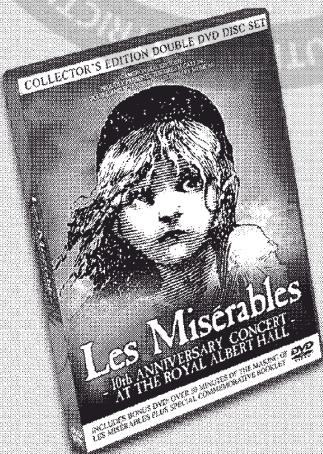
SODOM IT'S MINE

A RARE 17th century pornographic poem called Sodom was sold to a private buyer for £45,600 at a London auction yesterday.

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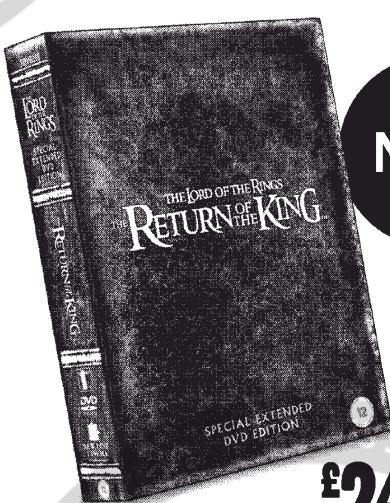
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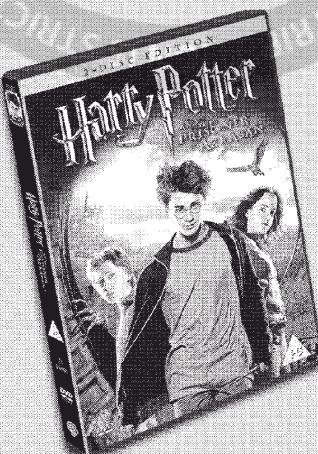
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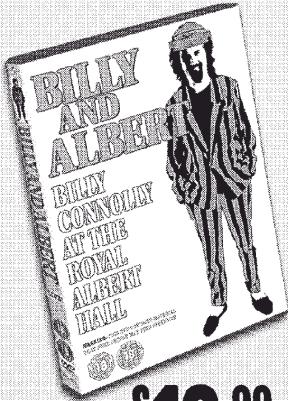
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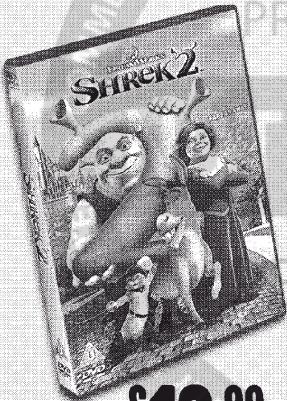
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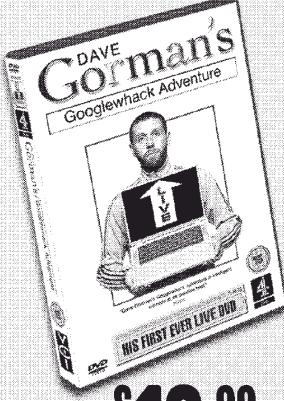
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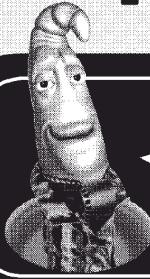
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CAR THAT'S GONE IN 8 SECONDS...

THE Flat Panda is the easiest car to break into.

Thieves can open it in under eight seconds using tools bought from a DIY store.

Nine models, including VW's top-selling Golf, Vauxhall's Astra and the Mini Cooper

■ by ANDREW BAXTER

were broken into in less than a minute, according to a What Car? mag report, which comes out today.

Editor David Motton said: "Many cheaper, mainstream cars fared abysmally."

"The Fiat Panda performed worst but plenty of other

popular cars failed to defeat our would-be thieves."

BMW's 525 and X3 models were the most secure along with the Lexus RX300 and Peugeot 407 in the latest batch of the magazine's annual tests.

Best

The British Crime Survey found car crime was 12% down in 2003/04 but there are still more than 1.3 million thefts from cars a year.

Car crime accounts for almost 15% of all offences.

TOP FIVE SECURE:

BMW 525i SE, Lexus RX300 SE-L, Peugeot 407 SE and BMW X3 SE; thieves failed to get in; Skoda Octavia Ambiente, 1min 57sec.

BOTTOM FIVE:

Fiat Panda Dynamic, 8sec; Kia Picanto SE, 11sec; VW Golf GT, 26sec; Smart Forfour Pulse, 31sec; Mazda RX-8, 39sec.

MOTOR MOUTH
Pages 64-66



EASY PICKINGS: The Fiat Panda Dynamic

Picture: TODD WILLIAMSON/FILM MAGIC.COM



Banks a million

■ DAZZLING Tyra Banks looked a million dollars at America's Top Model competition. The busty babe recently wore a £6 million bra, but made do with a diamond necklace worth only thousands for this bash in Los Angeles.

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WINE, FISH GARLIC AND CHOCOLATE

A meal to make you live

for ever

■ by JOHN McJANNET

SCIENTISTS have cooked up a diet that could make you live forever – well, almost.

They claim it'll add over six years to a man's life and five years to a woman's.

And, unlike most medical prescriptions, it should taste great.

There's fish with garlic, washed down by a nice glass of wine.

Help yourself to plenty of fruit and veg on the side.

Then finish off the dinner by tucking into lashings of dark chocolate and almonds.

Date

The super diet will slash the risk of heart disease by nearly 80%, say the experts.

Dutch researchers put the diet together by concentrating on items which reduce blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

But there are a couple of problems with their theory, published in the British Medical Journal.

The scientists suggest you don't have the meal before a date as garlic can give you bad breath and body odour.

And they warn that drinking any more than a tiny 150ml swig of wine – less than a normal glass – in a day could undo all the rest of the benefits.

■ A CITY claims to have the brainiest street cleaners in Britain, with two road sweepers with degrees. Cambridge's Steve Freear, 50, has a BA in English and an MA in Women's Studies and Allan Brigham, 50, has a degree in history and politics.

Oz gold nicked

THIEVES took gold discs from Ozzy Osbourne's band Black Sabbath in a raid on the home of record producer Patrick Meehan.

The gang got away with other rock memorabilia including a 12-string Fender guitar from the house in Edenbridge, Kent.

A gold and silver disc have been recovered after being sold at boot fair in Essex.

Rocker Ozzy, 56, recently grappled with a burglar who stole £2million-worth of jewellery from his mansion in Buckinghamshire.



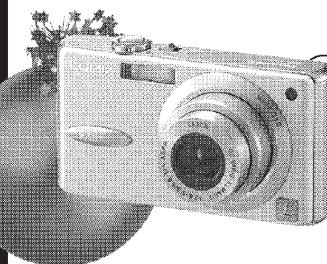
It's Mara dinner..

ROLY-POLY Diego Maradona bounces back into public life after his heart scares. Argentine legend Maradona, 38, was out for dinner in Buenos Aires with ex-wife Claudia Villafane.

Picture: BIGPICTURES/PHOTO.COM

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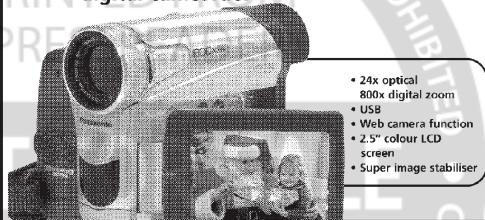
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DAD'S THE WAY: Peter, Kevin, Oliver and Nicholas and, right, Kate sings Nat King Cole

Boyzband crooners



SHE'S THE ONE: Jordan belts out a number on the show



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THAT'S MY BOY: Proud Kevin with son Kian



LIKE FATHER: Nicky's dad Nicholas is also a well-known singer

BOY-BAND Westlife are real POP stars now – after singing with their dads.

The lads front a Pop Idol-style show tomorrow called She's The One.

Mark Feehily, 24, Nicky Byrne, 26, Kian Egan, 24, and Shane Filan, 25, ran the contest to find their top fan and wannabe singer.

And in a surprise for the boys, their families arranged for their dads – Peter Filan, Nicholas

■ by GARY NICKS

Byrne, Kevin Egan and Oliver Feehily – to join them on stage.

Crooning

The dads have been dubbed Vestlife because their average age is 66.

Apart from Nicholas, a well-known cabaret singer, none had performed before.

But they joined in for some father-and-son crooning with a rendition of Sinatra's classic That's Life

from Westlife's new album *Allow Us To Be Frank*.

Kian said: "When we heard the demo, we cracked up. It's going to be a brilliant show."

Winner of the contest mum Joanne Hindley, 22, from Bolton, Lancs., also sang with the lads.

And the show features 26-year-old Kate Price, aka Jordan, film star Kevin Spacey, 45, and opera foursome Il Divo.

She's The One, ITV1, 6.30pm.



FAMILY AFFAIR: Mark and Oliver

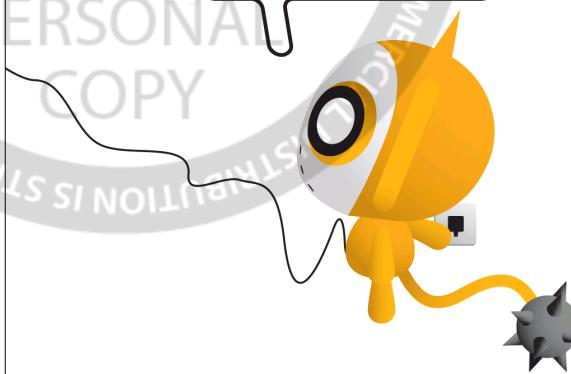


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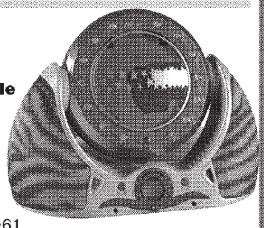
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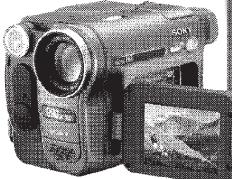
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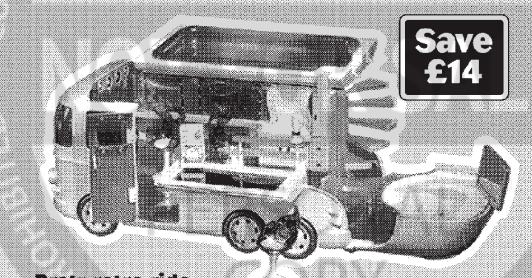
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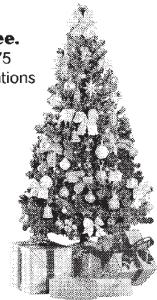
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HAUL IN THE WALL

Punters charged £140m to draw cash

RIP-OFF cash-machine charges are forcing customers to pay a whopping £140 million a year to withdraw their own money.

Revenue from the machines has soared 133% from £60 million, with private companies who install the machines pocketing most of the cash.

About 40% of the UK's cash machines – around 20,000 – now

■ by IAIN BURCHELL

charge customers between £1.50 and £5 to withdraw money, according to the Nationwide building society.

New figures show the number of machines that charge has grown by 29% in the past year, while the number of free machines increased by just 0.3%.

Nationwide is warning almost all ATMs will charge by Christmas 2005. The increase is mainly down to the growing

number of ATMs in newsagents and convenience stores, many of which charge customers.

Nationwide also found 1,600 free machines have a charging one within 100 metres – with operators flouting restrictions to limit them to "remote" or "convenient" locations.

Boycott

The Government's Treasury Select Committee will start its inquiry into cash machine charges later this month.

Nationwide's Stuart Bernau said: "This could be the last Christmas where there are more free machines than fee-charging ones. Consumers need to be wary when taking cash out of ATMs and boycott fee-paying machines whenever possible."

A typical withdrawal charge is £1.50, meaning customers pay a 7.5% charge for taking out £20.

Campaigners claim people on low incomes are hit hardest, as they are more likely to make smaller, regular withdrawals.

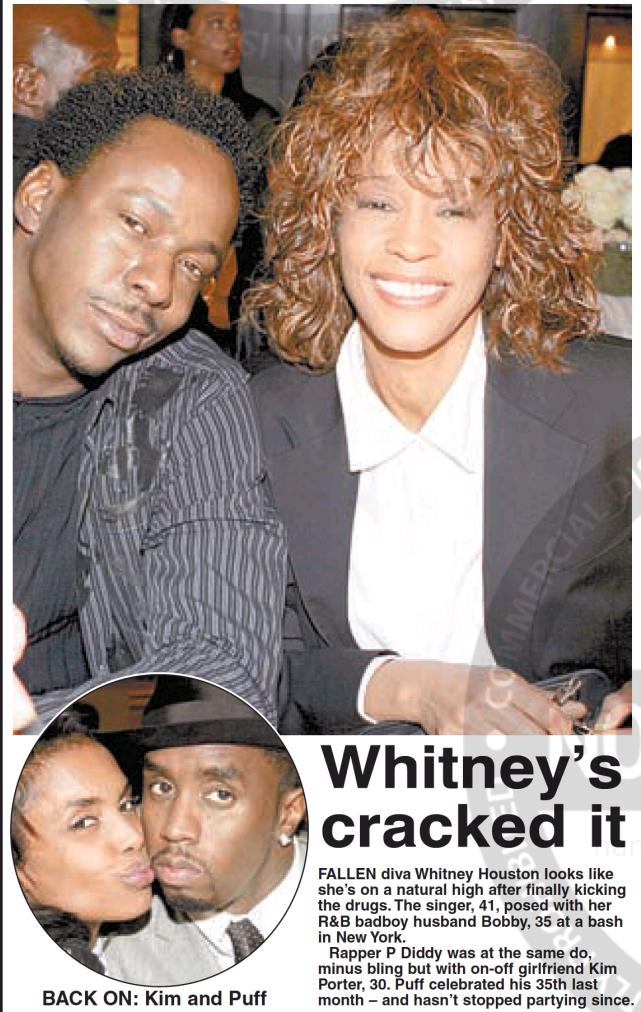


PAY: Be wary where you get cash

DON'T MISS



Dominik Diamond
TOMORROW



Whitney's cracked it

FALLEN diva Whitney Houston looks like she's on a natural high after finally kicking the drugs. The singer, 41, posed with her R&B badboy husband Bobby, 35, at a bash in New York.

Rapper P Diddy was at the same do, minus bling but with on-off girlfriend Kim Porter, 30. Puff celebrated his 35th last month – and hasn't stopped partying since.

BACK ON: Kim and Puff

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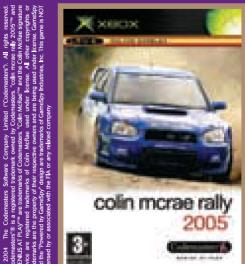
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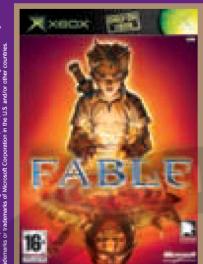
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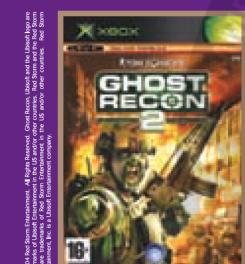
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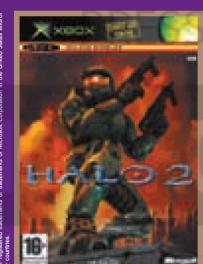
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